Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A unified real-time networked software document converter comprising:

    a) means (conversion monitors) to receive an outside agent document conversion task request;

    b) means (a job manager) to arrange appropriate conversion Engines to complete conversions;

    c) means (engine integration) to call different conversion engines and execute them efficiently;

2.   The system of Claim 1 further comprises multiple Conversion Monitors to simultaneously support different types of communication interface. This support can be for the multiple documents for the same meeting or for different meetings.

3.   The system of claim 1 further comprises a management module that determines conversion requirements, arranges appropriate Engines to complete conversions, and replies conversion status to requesters.

4.   The system of claim 1 further comprises a pool of many modularized small engines, with each engine being dedicated to convert specific type of file format.

5.   The system of Claim 2 also allows the Communication method to be either event driven (for real-time conversion) or polling (for pre-upload conversion).

6.   The system of Claim 3 further comprises a maintained waiting list of conversion requests in case all Engines are busy, the newly arriving jobs are placed in the waiting list to be dispatched based on the assigned priority.

7.   The system of Claim 3 further comprises a maintained waiting list of conversion requests in case all Engines are busy, the newly arriving jobs are placed in the waiting list to be dispatched based on the assigned priority or the deadline urgency.

8.   The system of Claim 3 further comprises a process to keep track the conversion status of each job to allow some jobs going through several stages of conversion.